(a) whether Mangalore Airport has recently been declared as an international airport with a limited number of international flights operating therein;

(b) whether there is ample scope and great demand, both from the public and the State Government, to further expand Mangalore Airport into a full fledged international airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto and the steps, if any, taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Mangalore airport has already been declared as Customs Airport in May, 2006 and the facilities available are sufficient for handling limited international flights.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated action for construction of new Integrated Terminal Building Complex for handling 500 passengers with all facilities for handling international flights. The new runway 06/24 of dimensions 2450 m X 45 m (8036 ft X 150 ft) is suitable for A 310 - 300 aircraft. There is a very little scope for runway expansion as this runway is a table top runway with deep valleys at either ends.

Boeing's MRO in Nagpur

†4291. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether international aircraft manufacturing company 'Boeing' has decided to set up its MRO in Nagpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the same;

(c) whether the Boeing company has been allotted land in Nagpur; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in non allotment of land and by when the land would be allotted to the company to facilitate it to set up its MRO in Nagpur at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the decision of purchase of aircraft from M/s. Boeing by Air India, as a part of its contractual obligation,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

M/s. Boeing has offered to facilitate setting up of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at Nagpur in India. Boeing has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government of Maharashtra for land and an MRO agreement with Air India in this regard. Site for the facility is being finalized. It will not be possible to indicate a definite time frame for completion of the work of establishment of this plant at this stage.

Expansion process of Chennai Airport

4292. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chennai airport stands in the process of expansion and improvement of airports in Metro cities;

(b) what is holding up the process and why the process is very slow; and

(c) whether there will be an objective approach in decision making instead of being carried away by the whims and fancies and the political eccentricities of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Expansion and development of airport infrastructure is an ongoing process and upgradation works are being regularly carried out with an objective approach as and when demand arises to augment passenger handling capacities at the airports.

The matter of development and modernisation of Chennai airport is being decided in consultation with the State Government. State Government has been requested to convey its views regarding the modalities for development as well related land acquisition issues by end May, 2007. The consultative process is being carried on objectively.

SWOT analysis of IA and private airlines

4293. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a SWOT analysis of Indian Airlines and other private airlines in the country;

(b) the measures and all out efforts employed to make up the weaknesses and threats on the one side and to avail the strengths and opportunities on the other; and